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KANSAS HEALTH POLICY AUTHORITY LAUNCHES PERMANENT MEDICAL CARDS

The Kansas Health Policy Authority (KHPA) has announced the launch of permanent medical identification cards for Medicaid beneficiaries. Beginning on September 1, 2008, the KHPA will issue permanent plastic medical identification (ID) cards in place of the previously issued monthly paper cards.

As part of the health reform recommendations advanced by the KHPA Board last year to decrease administrative costs in health care, Kansas will be the first state to conform card information to the national standards for advanced ID cards endorsed by the Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange (WEDI). The transition is anticipated to benefit both providers and beneficiaries with greater accuracy of information as well as added convenience and security.

The front of the medical identification card will contain the beneficiary's name, ID number, and date of birth. The back of the card will contain contact information about the medical plan for both providers and beneficiaries.

The back of the cards will also contain a swipeable magnetic stripe that allows access to beneficiary eligibility information through KHPA's Medicaid Management Information System.

Administrative costs consume approximately 30 percent of the US health care budget, partially due to the burdensome paperwork required in an uncoordinated health care system. Designing and implementing a standardized health insurance card for Medicaid beneficiaries is a significant step towards streamlining our health system in Kansas.

For more information on the Kansas permanent medical ID card, please visit the KHPA website at:
<http://www.khpa.ks.gov/medicalcard/provider.html>

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